

***Starke Lehrer – starke Schüler*”Strong teachers – strong pupils”**

Germany

<https://starkelehrer-starkeschueler.de/>

<https://hessen.de/presse/hessen-startet-projekt-gegen-demokratiefeindlichkeit>

DESCRIPTION

Anti-democratic attitudes and behaviours endanger the peaceful coexistence of a society. As a place where democracy is lived and as a central environment for socialisation, schools play a key role in addressing these social threats.

Vocational schools, in particular, **have traditionally received little attention** from educational offers in this respect.

Yet they often represent the last educational opportunity that can offer intentional democratic and political education to young adults. Pedagogical work in vocational schools presents in this regard special challenges, but also great potential.

The **Hessian model project “Strong teachers – strong students” address this gap**. Under the direction of Prof. Dr. Susann Gessner (Philipps University of Marburg), a teacher training is being developed, implemented and scientifically supported. The focus is on **professional training on topics such as extremism and group-related enmity**, with the eventual support from external advisors.

The **three-year initiative**, launched in autumn 2022, aims to **strengthen teachers' competences** in dealing with **anti-democratic comments and activities within the classroom and the wider school environment**. The project is being implemented in six vocational schools across the German Land of Hesse.

The Robert Bosch Foundation noted: “The evaluations in Saxony and Lower Saxony have shown that **this project can give teachers the tools they need to better counteract anti-democratic attitudes in schools.**”